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ORATION

BY

GEN. H. V. BOYNTON,

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GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND,

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# General Boynton's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

not mention these things by way of self laudation—far, very far from that—but solely to give greater point and stronger emphasis to what it will be my pleasure to say in regard to the still earlier part played by North Carolina in the great drama of the Revolution.

Every American should esteem it high privilege to take part in public exercises wherever this day commemorating our National Independence is celebrated. It is an exception-

Today we look back to that Independence which this battle-field did so much to secure, and glory in the victory here

achieved— for in every sense it was a practical victory, and the immediate forerunner of the enemy's final defeat. Turning from the past to the present, we find the same flag for which our fathers jointly fought, now flying by the joint hands of all their sons in perpetual sunlight— for on its folds the sun no longer sets.

To my mind, if there had been nothing more accomplished



...ve  
...of men, and we can be-  
lieve, in the presence of God, something even beyond the  
literal and obvious meaning of the actions has come to the na-  
tion. The flag has been planted on the other side of the  
earth— and as our country finds itself, through  
the marvelous and almost miraculous work of our Army  
and Navy, in the very front of the world's affairs. Such



trace of aggression, or of imperialism— that Boston might  
have been the home of a few prophets of evil—or anything except an honest

effort and determination to meet new duties with unflinching courage.

This park stands for more than the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It represents the culmination of mountain and over-mountain effort—largely North Carolina effort, and brilliantly successful effort to check the British invasion of the South. This monument represents and recalls not only all that was glorious in martial deeds and the sufferings of the patriot people of the Revolution, but it recalls to everlasting remembrance the infamy of England. It tells to all who behold, and will tell to all who come after us, the shameful story that the invasion of the Carolinas was deliberately planned as one of murder and rapine, and every cruelty which savage war could inflict. It was work of this kind, wholly outside of any rules of warfare, except such as obtain among savages, that was put into the hands of Cornwallis to execute, who, in turn, committed the consummation of the predetermined atrocities and butcheries to the willing hands of Tarleton and Ferguson. Whatever these tools were guilty of—and of what in the list of blackest crimes were they not guilty—Cornwallis was an accessory before the facts, and an applauding and confirming principal after the crimes.

This monument is for North Carolina the brilliant point on the gilded dome of our independence—seen far and wide, a gleaming out of the past that will never grow dim. Think of the situation which it commemorates! You are all familiar with it; but standing here on holy ground, to refresh our minds with the chief facts is to lay fresh fuel on the altars of patriotism. South Carolina had been overrun; organized resistance had ceased; their patriots were being hunted like wild beasts, and murdered wherever found; North Carolina's regulars had been captured through the imbecility of General Lincoln, defending Charleston; the enemy was resting along the southern boundaries of this state awaiting the ripening of the grain crops to advance and subdue it. North Carolina had only her militia with which to resist invasion. All along her southern horizon the sky was as black as midnight in a

tropical storm. Did North Carolina quail? Let King's Mountain answer! Let Cowpens testify! Let this battlefield respond.

In spite of this blackness of darkness the Old North State stood defiant. Without regulars, and with a scattered militia, citizens, singly and in groups, fired upon and harassed all hostile bands and held the State steady until it could assemble its scant resources and rally such outside aid as could be reached. There is no more honorable chapter in Revolutionary history than that which covers the time from Cornwallis' appearance on the southern border of North Carolina until the fires of patriotism flamed high on King's Mountain, fed with the wreck of Ferguson's camp and army.

There is nothing finer in the romance of war than the gathering of those "over-mountain" North Carolinians from what in part is now Tennessee, to hurl back the too confident invader. They came with the scant outfit of hardy mountaineers, but with those deadly Deckard rifles which they soon made the terror of British regulars. They hailed from regions of which Cornwallis knew nothing, and from settlements beyond the mountains the very names of which he had never heard. They were rallied by messengers which must have recalled to many of those Scotch-Irish men the speeding of the Fiery Cross to rally the clans in the Scottish Highlands. They set out with prayer, invoking "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon." At an appointed rendezvous they met William Campbell from Virginia; and South Carolina and Georgia from their condition of sore distress subsequently contributed an honorable quota. The march was through the snows of the mountains, but in good time they were in the vicinity of Ferguson, who had sent threats of hanging their leaders, and devastating their over-mountain region.

The country is familiar with the history of King's Mountain. Its fame is fadeless on the pages of Revolutionary story. There was no more skillfully planned, more courageously fought, or more decisive battlefield in all the war. And the one and unpretentious monument which North Carolina has

erected on that distant mountain top upon her southern border marks one of the most important epochs of the war.

Then came Cowpens with its crushing defeat of Tarleton, that twin comrade of Ferguson in diabolism. In the glory of that day the Maryland line participated with the soldiers from the states which were represented in the extermination of Ferguson's force. And here also North Carolina valor shone resplendent. Invasion was crippled. Patriotism in all the South had taken heart again. Cornwallis was in a desperate mood. And thus he drew on to his fate at this field upon which it is our privalige to assemble today.

You know the history of this battle well. It would be superfluous for me to rehearse its details. For Lord Cornwallis it was, in a millitary sense, one of those victories which in every essential element was sore defeat. While he occupied the field, he had neither destroyed nor disorganized, nor discouraged the patriot army. For him the limits of successful career had been reached. From Guilford Courthouse he fled to his doom. You all know the result—retreat, stout struggle against fatal conditions, but final surrender. The star of his fortunes passed its zenith at King's Mountain; it was stooping toward the west at Cowpens; it was in the mists of the horizon when the battle ended here, and a little later, and as the direct result of this battle, it plunged to darkest setting.

Tarleton, in his carefully written history, describes Guilford as a stubbornly contested field where "victory alternately presided over each army," and, further, as "a victory which, however splendid and honorable to the general and the troops, was not useful or advantageous to Great Britain."

Fox in the British Parliament, declared that the victory was with the Americans, for, he argued, that in the face of recognized defeat Cornwallis could have done no more than he did do, namely, leave the field and flee to the coast, as he was forced to do.

There is one false tradition of this field which the citizens of North Carolina properly combat and deny, and that is the



charge that the militia of their state, having been placed in the front line, ran without engaging the enemy. It is a story written twenty-eight years after the battle, from memory alone, by a writer since shown to have promulgated many erroneous statements.

To your fellow citizen, Hon. David Schenck, the state of North Carolina, and all students of Revolutionary history as well, owe a heavy debt of gratitude for the masterly demonstration of the falsity of this long current fiction. Equally are the state and the country indebted to him for every part of that brilliant and exhaustive history in which he sets forth the splendid part which unconquered and unconquerable North Carolina played throughout the Revolutionary War.

As to Guilford, the evidence which he presents from eye-witnesses, and contemporary reports, is conclusive that the North Carolina militia were placed in the front line, and ordered by General Greene in person to deliver two rounds and then retire behind the second line. This they did, firing their first volley with terrible effect at 150 yards, and the second at forty yards, coolly resting their rifles on a fence and taking deadly aim. The testimony of British officers establishes this, even without the equally conclusive and impartial testimony from patriot sources. The hasty retreat behind the second line, after the full execution of their orders, affords no justification for the erroneous and cruel contributions to alleged history to which it gave rise. The posting of this line of riflemen without bayonets, the orders given it, the quick retreat behind the line of regulars in the face of a bayonet charge of the enemy need no defence when examined from a military point of view alone.

Time will not permit more than this general reference to the chief historical injustice done those who opened this battle of Guilford Courthouse with such deadly effect. Every North Carolinian, and every student of history, who has not already done so, should procure and carefully read the exhaustive and reliable work of Hon. David Schenck, in which the proofs of heroic conduct appear clear as noonday.

Nothing is more exasperating to the student of our military history than the persistence with which erroneous statements, born of the confusion and uncertainty of the field of battle, are reproduced by careless writers and given continuing life. As this feature of what passes for history has a direct bearing upon the injustice done North Carolina soldiers so long ago, and still repeated in such histories as those of Washington Irving and General Carrington, and in leading encyclopedias, a few modern instances may not prove without interest or pertinence here.

In describing the battle of Missionary Ridge, General Grant and General Sherman in their Memoirs; General Badeau in his "Military History of Grant" (which, it is claimed by Badeau, was revised by Grant) and a host of writers of lesser note, insist that General Sherman carried the north end of Missionary Ridge to the Tunnel. Not only is this not true for the date given in all these histories, but it is not true for any other date, since Sherman throughout the battle did not succeed in carrying any part of Missionary Ridge. And yet, at the time these histories were written, there were hundreds of officers and thousands of soldiers living who were eye-witnesses of Sherman's attacks and failures. And a small army of them is living yet.

Take another case. Gen. James Grant Wilson—not the Cavalry Wilson—is a military oracle of Philadelphia and New York publishers. He has edited volume after volume of military history touching the Civil War. Not a single one has yet appeared without grave errors which the most casual examination of the published official records would have enabled him to avoid. Of a certain movement in the battle of Chattanooga, in a volume wholly his own, he writes :

"At 1 P. M. Sherman gave the order to advance on Missionary Ridge. With a hundred guns playing upon them, and with as many answering from the Federal Heights, his command gained the foot of the first advanced spur of Missionary Ridge, climbed it through storms of shot and shell, beat back the bayonets that wreathed its top, clambered over the hot

muzzles of the guns upon its summit, and at half past three planted their banners there, a step nearer the superior heights frowning above."

Now what do you suppose the facts to be, which the official record clearly discloses, and to which there are a cloud of living witnesses? Simply these, that the spur indicated was not occupied by the enemy, and not a shot was fired from it, or at it, by rifle or cannon, during the movement which Wilson thus describes in the hackneyed phrases of blood and thunder war literature. Not only was there no such occurrence in front of this part of the line, but there was nothing like it for him on any part of the line. Sherman, unopposed and unobstructed, marched up to some unoccupied hills, detached from Missionary Ridge, and established his lines there. All the rest is the stage thunder and sheet-iron lighting of the military novelist. His battle was on the next day.

Prof. Coppee, a West Point man, and a Professor at Lehigh University, in his life of General Thomas presents the second day's battle at Chicamauga as the first; and further declares that during a certain night the whole of the Army of the Cumberland was busy entrenching its lines for the coming battle, when, as a matter of fact, the entire army was marching that night from sunset to sunrise, and not a shovelful of earth was thrown by it throughout the whole battle.

Even the highly praised histories of Prof. J. F. Rhodes, Gen. James Schouler and John Fiske—all professional historians of accepted standing—present instances of error as glaring as these.

The application of these facts to the perversion of Guilford's history is plain. If celebrated historians in this day, surrounded with credible witnesses, and with every means of testing their work at command, commit such egregious errors where error is utterly inexcusable, it will not seem strange that this unjust charge against North Carolina troops, once launched into the current of alleged history, should have lived so long without refutation.



North Carolina students of her military history in all wars should be more persistent in setting forth the proof of the gross error in regard to the action of her soldiers on this field because of the admitted record of their splendid fighting elsewhere. Let me cite you a few figures of the Civil War:

The famous 26th North Carolina, of Pettigrew's Brigade of Heth's Division holds the record of the severest regimental loss during the war. It went into the Battle of Gettysburg over 800 strong. It lost 588 killed and wounded. On the third day it mustered only 216 for duty, and the next but 80. Besides the killed and wounded there were 120 missing, many of whom were among the fallen. The percentage of killed and wounded was 72 and of casualties 86. This was ten times the percentage of the total loss of the American army at Santiago, which was little over 8 percent., including El Caney, Aguadores and San Juan Hill. On the same day at Gettysburg in the same brigade, Company C., 11th North Carolina, lost two officers killed, and 34 men wounded out of 38. In the third day's fight Captain Bird, of this company, with the four men left, went into the Longstreet charge, the color bearer was shot, and the Captain brought out the flag.

The Second North Carolina Battalion lost 63.7 per cent. at Gettysburg; the 27th at Antietam 61.2 per cent; the 18th, in the Seven Day's battle, 56.5 per cent., and the 7th 56.2 per cent. The casualties of the 4th, at Seven Pines, reached 54.4 per cent; the 3d, at Gettysburg, 50 per cent., without counting 51 missing, most of whom were killed or wounded. For Ramseur's North Carolina Brigade, at Chancellorsville, the loss was 52.2 per cent. In all these cases the North Carolina organizations named lost more than every second man.

Taking the war through, the records show that North Carolina lost in killed over 17 per cent. of her entire population of military age.

Let us reason backward from the splendid fighting standards which these figures establish. Could such a military population spring from sires who failed in duty on battlefields of the Revolution?

The Revolutionary epochs in which the citizens of the North State were first have already been named—first to resist unjust taxation by arms; first to announce formal independence of Great Britain; first, when the war was on, to turn back British invasion of the South.

Here, on this ground, citizens of North Carolina, organized by act of its legislature, again have been first—the first to purchase and preserve a battlefield of the Revolution. Speaking generally, the country has done little toward saving the features of its colonial battle grounds from oblivion. Various steps have been taken in different parts of the land to mark historic points of that seven years' struggle; but nowhere save here, so far as I am informed, has a Revolutionary battlefield been bought outright and preserved entire. Bunker Hill has its monument—surrounded by solid blocks of brick and mortar. There is a bronze Minute Man at Concord, and granite tablets on the line of March from Cambridge to Lexington.

The state of Pennsylvania has saved the camp ground of Valley Forge. The Daughters of the American Revolution in Connecticut are erecting a historical tablet where Putnam took his famous ride, and their sisters in Fredericksburg, Va., have resolved to mark all Revolutionary points in that vicinity. The Government has erected an imposing monument at Yorktown. New Jersey has placed a monument on each of her fields of note, and some work of this kind has been done in New York. These things are well, and deserve the support and acclaim of all patriots.

But how these pale before the more comprehensive project here! Here also is a monument to mark the field of Guilford Courthouse. But how much more than that is here? The very roads that existed when the battle was on; the open ground across which the opposing lines faced each other; the position of the fence from which the North Carolina militia delivered those deadly volleys; the lines of the regulars in rear of them; the forest of desperate fighting where victory hung long in the balance; the ravines and ridges which saw the close of a battle which gave Cornwallis the field,

but at such fearful cost as to prove his complete undoing—all here, the framework and the detailed setting of one of the decisive engagements of the war, all possessed and restored. While the Government has reared that noble shaft at Yorktown, it is but half completed work. It will not be finished until on this ground, marking the field which made Yorktown possible, it has raised an equally imposing monument to tell the preliminary and compelling story of Guilford Courthouse to the ages.

And while waiting for the Government, and rallying all the influences which we can command to secure action at its hands, I cannot forbear to appeal here and now for more immediate aid to a force and power before which modern civilization justly bows in homage—woman. The land is full of patriotic societies of women. Of these, Colonial Dames, Founders and Patriots, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Revolution, are giving increased attention to the preservation of early battle history. If the women of this good state would enthusiastically unite to assist in the full marking of this field, the time would be short before in every particular the work accomplished here would rival in interest and completeness everything yet done to preserve the other fields of that war. This is a work worthy of the ambition and state pride of those women who stand highest in every walk of life. There is no nobler history to hand down unimpaired to coming generations than the record of North Carolina in the days when it bade defiance to British diabolism, incarnate in the persons of that trinity of evil, Cornwallis, Tarleton and Ferguson. If in the near future the country should hear that the women of the state had organized to help in the further restoration and preservation of this field, it would feel certain that ere long it would be the most interesting point of pilgrimage among the Revolutionary fields of the land.

Such an occasion as this—such as imposing and influential gathering, assembled to do honor both to our nationality, and to the men who fought on this field to lay its foundations broad and deep, should so rekindle reverence for Revolutionary

effort and sacrifice as to set on foot general and earnest work for the preservation of all decisive battle fields of the struggle which gave us independence. Especially should this event arouse North Carolina to renewed interest in her fields of ancient but enduring renown.

The government is giving wide and absolutely impartial attention to the restoration and preservation of the most noted battle fields of the Civil War. This involves purchase of lands; the identification and marking of lines of battle; the erection of monuments by the states to regiments and batteries; the placing of guns on iron carriages in every fighting position of the batteries; and historical tablets for every army corps, division, brigade and battery engaged. This work has been finished at Antietam. It is well advanced at Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Shiloh. It is in progress at Vicksburg. Bills have been favorably reported in Congress to establish a Military Park at Atlanta; and a bill for another including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spottsylvania has just passed the Senate and awaits the action of the House at the coming session.

The Government has already appropriated a million dollars for the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park. Seven battlefields are included within its limits, or reached by its improved roads. In that portion alone which embraces the fighting ground at Chickamauga the Government owns ten square miles, and the combined acreage and mileage, including the Georgia and Tennessee divisions, of this park exceeds the aggregate area and mileage of all the other military parks yet established. Every state which had troops in these battles sent a commission to assist the National Commission in ascertaining the lines where they fought and deciding upon locations for monuments. More than four hundred brigade lines of battle have been thus identified with the cordial concurrence of all the state commissions, and the veterans of each side who have visited the field in great numbers. The historical tablets for seven of the brigades set forth the designation, and the names of the commanding officers of the

seven North Carolina regiments, together with the commanding officers of the brigades, divisions and corps in which they served. Thus there is on this field, preserved on imperishable tablets, a record of the organization and the movements in the battle of the 29th North Carolina Infantry, Col. Wm. R. Creasman commanding ; the 39th, Col. David Coleman ; the 58th, Col. John B. Palmer ; the 60th, Lieut.-Col. James M. Ray and Capt. Jas. T. Werver, and the 6th Calvary, Col. Geo. N. Folk.

In the same way on the Chattanooga field the records of the 58th and the 60th, with their commanding officers, are again recorded on the tablets there. North Carolina had, and I suppose still has, a State Chickamauga Commission. Why should she not have one for Guilford Courthouse, and for the identification of her other Revolutionary fields, and the preservation of their history?

In looking back over the hundred and twenty years that have elapsed since British invasion was checked on this field, it is natural to ask ourselves how the two nations then engaged have maintained their respective roles, and how time has dealt with the two forces which struggled here for mastery. The savage policy devised for Cornwallis, and by him committed to Tarleton and Ferguson has been the policy of England ever since. She has stalked among the weak nations of the earth crushing them by conquest and chaining them to her imperial chariot for gain.

And what of this republic which this battlefield of Guilford

Courthouse helped in such marked degree to usher in? Has it not moved on from grace to grace, and from glory to glory? It has had its trials on land and sea. It has not left its own shores for conquest. It has not sought out the weak and marked them for absorption. Its example and fast growing influence have been a blessing to the nations and made America the hope of the world. The Great Republic, whose flag as a delivering and elevating power has now gone round the earth, cherishes no malice, but its citizens do not forget the England of the Revolution.









# The Battle of Guilford Court House

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And the Preservation  
of that Historic Field

*W. W. Attervial*

May 1780 Charleston  
Aug. 1780 Camden  
7 Oct. 1780 King's Mountain  
17 Jan. 1781 Cowpens  
15-Mar., 1781 Guilford Court House



In pursuance of the determination of the British Government, in 1779, to transfer the seat of active hostilities from the Northern to the Southern Department, Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of the English forces in America, sailed southward from New York, invested Charleston, S. C., and in May, 1780, captured the city with practically the whole Southern Army, then under General Lincoln. The British plan of the campaign was to capture South and North Carolina and if possible, Virginia, and hold these at least, as time and the fortunes of war in the future might dictate. Charleston having fallen, Clinton sailed in June for New York and left Lord Cornwallis supplied with all they deemed necessary for the completion of the work. In August, 1780, Cornwallis gained at Camden, S. C., an overwhelming victory over General Gates, leaving the department destitute of troops, except 700 beaten veterans and the militia of North Carolina and Virginia, yet to be raised. The late General Henry V. Boynton, in an address delivered at Guilford Battle Ground on July 4th, 1900, says:

“The enemy was resting along the southern border of this State, awaiting the ripening of the crop to advance and subdue it. North Carolina had only her militia with which to resist invasion. Along her southern border the sky was black as midnight in a tropical storm. Did North Carolina falter? Let King’s Mountain answer, let Cowpens testify, let Guilford Battle Field respond.”

The heroism of the actors in the Battle of King’s Mountain is unsurpassed in the annals of militia in the time of war. The moral effect of the battle was immense. It quelled the Tory spirit of the country and inspired the dejected Whigs. It was, however, a battle between militia, brave and heroic as they were, and its material advantage to the country was small. Colonel Furgeson was, I believe, the only Briton on the field, accompanied by 150 to 200 New York provincials, who were regulars, and the remainder of his force, about a thousand men, consisted of Tories. King’s Mountain was fought October 7, 1780. Even the battle of Cowpens, fought January 17, 1781, in which 600 of the finest of English Regulars were killed or captured, seemed only to have aroused Cornwallis to the proper prosecution of the original and all-important plan of the campaign. He at once drove Greene from Charlotte 200 miles across the State of North Carolina,

and across the Dan River into Virginia, with fierce and determined activity. Greene, unable to meet him at the time, effected his escape at Irwin's and Boyd's Mills, seventy miles east of Guilford Court House, on the 15th of February, 1781. Cornwallis reached the southern bank of the stream on the same day. Unable to cross, Cornwallis fell back to Hillsboro, N. C., fifty miles southward, remained there till the 26th, and then marched westward to Guilford County, reported to contain much food and provender for the support of an army. Having thrown cavalry and light infantry across the river previously, Greene re-crossed with his command into North Carolina on the 23rd and, holding this between the British army and the river, proceeded westward a little north of, and in the rear of Cornwallis. Having been out-generaled by Greene in the recent long retreat, Cornwallis deliberately awaited Greene's choice of time and place for the battle which both knew must come off. Greene, having received expected reinforcements, advanced to Guilford Court House on the 14th of March, 1781. On the 15th occurred the battle of Guilford Court House. This was fought by the generals in command of the respective forces—British and American—numbering at the least ten thousand men, and including the flower of the British army in America. The result of this battle was the immediate and utter abandonment by the British general of the original purpose of the campaign, to-wit: the subjugation of South and North Carolina and Virginia; and the restoration by General Greene to the Union of South Carolina and Georgia, both of which had been over-run and garrisoned. From Guilford Court House, Cornwallis sought safety under the guns of his ships at Wilmington, and the British historian, Tarleton, says: Though urged to come out of his defences at Wilmington and again engage Greene, alleging that Greene might entangle him among the rivers of South Carolina and destroy his command, Cornwallis deliberately allowed Greene to pass him, marching southward, unopposed—to destroy in detail his outpost and garrisons in South Carolina and restore that State and Georgia to the Union. In April, Cornwallis, unopposed, marched northward across North Carolina into Virginia. Here he was unable to effect, or at least to carry out another plan of co-operation with Clinton, and Yorktown followed. The seeds of the surrender at Yorktown and of the bitter quarrel between Cornwallis and Clinton soon

following, were sown chiefly at Guilford Court House. These are the fruits of the Battle of Guilford Court House. The one fact that Greene fell back eighteen miles northward to a fortified camp and left Cornwallis in possession of the field on the 15th obscured and for years continued to obscure the true character of this most important American victory. Greene had written Governor Jefferson that he would deliver battle when his own judgment approved and not before—that he should fight it with militia, preserving his regulars, all he could expect to get and thus drive Cornwallis from North Carolina. All this he did. Stedman, the British historian then present, states that immediately after the withdrawal of Greene's Regulars, his third line, "in good order," Cornwallis ordered a pursuit, which order was speedily countermanded on his better information of the true condition of affairs. There was no pursuit. From a point far south of the battle-field Greene wrote on the 30th the following:

"GREENE'S HEADQUARTERS, RAMSEY'S,

"DEEP RIVER, March 30th, 1781.

"I wrote you the 23rd instant from Buffalo Creek (South Guilford), since which time we have been in pursuit of the enemy with the determination to bring them into action again. On the 27th we arrived at Ridgen's Ford,—miles above this, and found the enemy then lay at Ramsey's. Our army was put in motion without loss of time, but we found the enemy had crossed some hours before our arrival and with such precipitation that they had left their dead unburied upon the ground."

Tarleton says: "The British obtained information that General Greene's army had reached Buffalo Creek, southward of Guilford Court House. The day before the King's troops arrived at Ramsey's, the Americans insulted the Yagers in their encampment. The Royalists remained a few days at Ramsey's for the benefit of the wounded and to complete a bridge over Deep River, when the light troops of the Americans again disturbed the pickets. The British crossed the river and the same day General Greene reached Ramsey's with the intention to attack them. The halt of the King's troops at that place nearly occasioned an action which would not probably have been advantageous to the royal forces on

account of the position and the disheartening circumstance of their being encumbered with so many wounded officers and men in the action at Guilford."

From Wilmington on the tenth of April Cornwallis wrote Clinton in New York and in a letter, not an official report, that the "victory at Guilford, though one of the bloodiest of the war, was very complete." Greene, he said, never came within reach after the battle nor fired a gun. We would ask, Why? If Tarleton and Greene are to be believed and as the relative position of the two armies and their movements prove, it was because Greene could not catch him. Clinton wrote Cornwallis on the thirteenth of April to come to Virginia and bring part of his troops, supposing that Greene had crossed the Roanoke and had fled to Virginia. On the twenty third, before getting Clinton's letter of the thirteenth, Cornwallis wrote Clinton of his "great apprehension because of Greene's movements to South Carolina" and of his "anxiety" over the situation there; and adds that he is under the necessity of adopting this "hazardous enterprise" (of leaving Wilmington for Virginia) at once "hastily and with the appearance of precipitation as I find \* \* that the return of General Greene, with or without success, would put a junction with Phillips in Virginia out of my power." He had stated to Clinton concerning his deserting to his fate Lord Rawdon at Camden, exposed to Greene, that he had sent Rawdon messages to the effect that Greene was approaching him, and declared his own departure from Cross Creek for Wilmington a necessity. "I could not remain at Wilmington lest General Greene should succeed against Lord Rawdon and by returning to North Carolina, have it in his power to cut off every means of saving my small corps, except that disgraceful one of an embarkation with the loss of the cavalry and every horse in the army."

That the battle of Guilford was a momentous disaster to Cornwallis and the British cause the criticism of Clinton and reply thereto-of Cornwallis establish beyond cavil. (Read Clinton's Narrative and Cornwallis' Reply—1783.)



The Guilford Battle Ground Company is an association of patriotic gentlemen, incorporated by the Legislature of North Carolina in 1887. Its purpose is, "The preservation, reclamation and adornment of the Battle Field of Guilford Court House." Such was the progress made by individual efforts and subscriptions from \$1.00 upwards, the State Legislature now and for some years past, has exempted the Association from taxation and makes it an annual appropriation of several hundred dollars.

The Association owes not one dollar. The beautiful park itself contains about one hundred acres of Piedmont hill and vale, fairly improved and adorned as to its groves and meadows and abundant waters with canopied founts, dams, grass plots, buildings, museum and twenty-five monuments, many with elegant bronze tablets and four crowned with statuary. The title to these grounds has been examined, approved, paid for and the deeds recorded. It lies in the direct line of travel from New York to New Orleans and is traversed by the great Southern Railway. It is imbedded in the hearts of North Carolinians, and citizens of other States, many of whose progenities fought here. It is fostered by the State's Legislature, by individuals and by the several railroads centering here to the full extent allowed by law. The thrifty and rapidly growing City of Greensboro, in whose suburbs it lies, annually affords the country, on July 4th, a grand outing upon the grounds, where the living and dead speakers of the land address the people, and where all are made happier men and better, because wiser, citizens of the republic.

The Fayetteville (N. C.) Observer, a journal of the highest respectability, recently published in its columns the following:

"The story of this Association and its successful work, reads like a romance, when we consider that it has its being and has done its work in the hitherto barren, historical soil of North Carolina."

On January 4, 1905, the Hon. Hugh Haskins, State Historian of the State of New York, wrote:

"I feel that you deserve the sympathy and encouragement of all patriots in your efforts, etc."

In the Washington Post of July —, 1903, we have this language from the pen of General Henry V. Boynton:

“The vast body of the Revolutionary patriots in the North should take notice of this North Carolina work, \* \* a field preserved and paid for, with its history collected and preserved on tablets and monuments. Those who have brought it to success are at the sunset of life. It would be in every sense fitting if the National Government should receive this finished work of patriotism (freely tendered) and provide for its future care.”

JOSEPH M. MOREHEAD,

President Guilford Battle Ground Company.

Greensboro, N. C., March 5, 1906.

We have no salaried officer; pay no dividends; exact no gate fees; have raised with great labor and expended here forty thousand dollars at least, and now tender freely our property to the National Government.

We ask that our proffer be accepted or that the Senate Bill now before the House to erect a monument to General Greene for \$25,000 be adopted. In view of the large amounts voted elsewhere over the land, we think our labors and expenditures considered, we ought not to be cut off with the one thousand dollars previously voted us. A wise and just public policy encourages diligence and liberality in patriotic endeavor.

President Guilford Battle Ground Co.

Greensboro, N. C., June 11, 1906. ✓



PP-10-17-18-19

# GEN. FRANCIS NASH

AN ADDRESS

BY

HON. A. M. WADDELL

Delivered at the Unveiling of a Monument to General Nash,  
Voted by Congress, at the Guilford Battle Ground,  
July 4, 1906.

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Published by the Guilford Battle Ground Company,  
Wilmington, N. C.



*GEN. FRANCIS NASH*



*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Guilford Battle Ground Company.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

An ancient maxim declares that Republics are ungrateful. We are today in the presence of a noble and enduring proof of its falsity. A great statesman declared that no monument ought to be erected to a public character until a hundred years after the period of his active services, for there could be no absolute assurance of their permanent value until the lapse of that time.

To this supreme test the public character and services of which I shall speak on this occasion have been subjected, and they have gained additional lustre in the alembic of the years. Those services ended, and he who performed them closed his earthly career more than a century and a quarter ago upon one of the battlefields of the American Revolution, and today we are assembled to witness the final execution of his country's long-declared purpose to perpetuate his memory by the erection of this solid and beautiful work of art.

Such a tribute by a great nation to an unselfish patriot, a brave soldier and accomplished gentleman who sacrificed his life for the establishment and maintenance of the liberties of his country, is honorable to it, and, if the dead be conscious of the deeds of the living, must be grateful to his spirit.

Little did he dream when death confronted him on that bloody field in Pennsylvania that, in the far distant future, on the ground where another battle was fought in the same cause, and within fifty miles of his own North Carolina home assembled thousands would witness the unveiling of a nation's monument to his memory. His only hope and aspiration, as his letters prove, was that his country would be victorious and that he would soon return to his loved ones to pass the remainder of his days in the peaceful enjoyment

of domestic life. The full realization of this hope was denied him, in common with many another hero and patriot who gave his life to the cause, but the larger hope prevailed, and his country triumphed. Great indeed and far-reaching was that triumph, for it revolutionized human history and established forever—at least among people of Anglo-Saxon origin—the doctrine of government by the people. There have been lapses in the practical enforcement of this doctrine, but it has always persistently asserted itself and will continue to do so to the end of time. It is our inheritance from which we can never be divorced, and for the priceless possession we are indebted to the heroic men who in an apparently hopeless contest of seven years' duration finally forced its acceptance at the point of the bayonet and proudly proclaimed it to an astonished world.

The man with the blood of the American Revolution in his veins who can regard with indifference the career of any soldier of that struggle who gave his life for his country is unworthy of the privileges which he enjoys as an American citizen. If whenever that glorious era of the birth of liberty is celebrated, he does not feel a thrill of admiration and reverence for the men who by their valor and patient sacrifices made it immortal he is a degenerate.

Some years ago an American statesman declared that the government of the American Colonies by George III. was the best government then existing on earth, and he was right in his judgment for there was no government on earth at that time which fully recognized the rights of the people and the British government came nearer to it than any other. So much the more honor to the American subjects of that government for their demand for the fullest rights and privileges of British subjects, and, when these were denied, to assert the right of resistance to oppression. They began it in North Carolina long before the Revolution and even after their open resistance to the Stamp Act in 1765 for

nearly ten years they declared again and again—George Washington being a leader in such declaration—that they did not desire, or contemplate a separation from the British crown, but when finally driven to the wall they turned and deliberately declared themselves independent. The first Declaration of Independence was made at Charlotte on the 20th May, 1775, and the first instruction to representatives in the Continental Congress to declare for independence was given by the Convention at Halifax on the 12th of April, 1776.

How these bold declarations were sustained by North Carolina people when the issue of battle was presented, is a story that ought to be made familiar to every school child in the State. The duty assigned me today can only embrace a fragment of it, but that fragment covers a career of which every North Carolinian should feel proud.

A few miles below Farmville, in Prince Edward county, Virginia, and in the forks of the Appomattox and Bush rivers, there was in 1732 a large landed estate of more than 5,000 acres, which had been settled by a gentleman from Tenby, Pembrokeshire, South Wales, who from the time of his arrival in Virginia to the day of his death was prominent and active in affairs, both of church and State. The county of Prince Edward was a part of Henrico county prior to 1754, and therefore the earlier record of this gentleman is credited to the latter county.

He was presiding Justice of the county and is said to have attended the sessions of the court in great state, with a coach and four, being received by the sheriff at the door very ceremoniously. He had been sheriff of Henrico county and after the formation of Prince Edward county was the first member of the house from that county. He was associated with the leaders of the Colony and helped to build old St John's church in Richmond, where Patrick Henry afterwards delivered his celebrated phillipic, and in 1757 was

appointed Colonel of a regiment that was sent to protect the frontier against the Indians.

This gentleman, John Nash, before coming to America with his brother Thomas, had married Anna Owen, daughter of Sir Hugh Owen of Tenby, and he named his estate in the forks of the Appomattox and Bush rivers, "Templeton Manor," after the town of Templeton, near Tenby. On this estate he lived in the style and with the abounding comforts that characterized the life of a wealthy Virginia planter of that period, and there brought up the four sons, and four daughters who were born to him, all of whom personally, or in their children reflected honor upon his name and their own. Indeed it may be safely asserted that there are few families in the country that produced, in proportion to their numbers, more distinguished men in civil and military life than his. The oldest of his sons, Col. Thomas Nash, married Mary Reed, and removed first to Lunenburg county and represented that county in the House of Burgesses and thence to Edenton, N. C., where he died in 1769, leaving an only daughter, Anna Owen Nash, who married in 1771 the Rev. John Cameron, of Petersburg, Va. Their children were Judge Duncan Cameron, of Raleigh, Judge John A. Cameron, of the U. S. District Court of Florida, Dr. Thomas Cameron, of Fayetteville, N. C., and Wm. Cameron, of Ellersly, Orange county.

His second son was Col. John Nash, the second, who was a Colonel in the Revolution in 1781, represented Prince Edward county in House of Delegates in 1778, was the founder and a member of the Board of Trustees of Hampden Sidney College, inherited the estate of Templeton by devise from his father, and died in 1803.

The third son of Col. John Nash, was Abner Nash, who after succeeding his father as representative from Prince Edward, moved to Newbern, N. C., and was a member of the Provincial Congress at Halifax in the years 1774-'5-'6, which



body appointed him, among other committees, on one to prepare the constitution of the new state. He was an able lawyer, the first Speaker of the first House of Commons, and the second Governor of the State, 1779-'81, and a member of the Continental Congress, 1782-'86, and died in New York during the session of Congress, December 2nd, 1786. He was the father of the late Chief Justice Frederick Nash, of our Supreme Court.

And now we come to the fourth and youngest son of Col. John Nash, (original owner of Templeton Manor,) General Francis Nash, in whose honor this memorial arch has been erected.

Like his brothers Thomas and Abner, he too removed to North Carolina, but selected his residence in a different part of the State—Hillsborough—a town which even then had begun to be historic. He came there a young lawyer seeking his career, and soon made his mark. He had never held any office, but some time after settling there he was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court of Orange County, and also a Captain under the Crown. He commanded his company in the battle of Alamance in 1771, and his steady conduct attracted attention. He was a member of the Provincial Congress that met at Hillsborough in August 1775, and was elected by that body September 1, 1776, Lieut.-Col. of the first regiment of the Continental Line, of which James Moore was elected Colonel.

That regiment with the militia under Caswell, Lillington and others, won the first victory of the Revolution at Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776. Col. Moore having been appointed Brigadier-General immediately after that fight, Nash became Colonel, his commission dating from April 10, 1776. On the first of June, Sir Henry Clinton's fleet with Cornwallis's forces, left the mouth of the Cape Fear for Charleston, and immediately the first and second regiments under General Moore started for that place, arriving on the

11th. The British fleet opened fire on Fort Moultrie on the 28th of June, and Cornwallis's troops tried to land, but were beaten off by Col. Thompson's South Carolina Rangers and a battalion of two hundred picked men from Nash's Regiment under Lieut. Col. Clark, and these North Carolina troops received high praise from the commanding General (Charles Lee) for their conduct.

After the defeat of the British the North Carolina regiments were concentrated at Wilmington, where they were rigidly drilled and disciplined until about the middle of November at which time they were ordered to the North to re-enforce Gen. Washington's army. They marched as far as Halifax on the way, but were kept there for three weeks, and were then counter-marched to the vicinity of Charleston again, to meet another threatened attack by the British who were near St. Augustine, Florida. On the 5th of February, 1777, Col. Nash was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, and assumed command of the Brigade.

The States of Georgia and South Carolina were endangered, and because of the urgent request of those States the North Carolina troops were kept for their defence until March 15th, 1777, when they were again ordered to join Gen. Washington, who was retreating through New Jersey with great loss, and in extreme danger. They resumed their former route, passing through Wilmington, Halifax, Richmond, Alexandria and Georgetown to Philadelphia. Their splendid reputation had preceded them, and the result was that their march through Virginia, and Maryland was a succession of enthusiastic reception by the people.

After a few days stop in Philadelphia, some of the regiments arrived at Washington's camp at Middlebrook, New Jersey, about the last of June, 1777. The brigade was held at Trenton for about ten days in July, and from there Gen. Nash wrote one of the two or three letters of his that are still in existence. It was a letter to his wife dated July 25th,

and shows that he was thoroughly competent, and understood the strategy of the commander-in-chief, although they were both at that time uncertain as to the British commander's real point of attack. "When I left Philadelphia, which was a week or ten days ago," he says, "I expected that we should have proceeded directly to headquarters. However, I received a letter from General Washington, directing me to remain at this place until further orders, under a supposition that the late movements of the enemy might probably be only a feint in order to draw our army as far to the north as possible, and then by a forced march endeavor to gain Philadelphia, before the necessary succor could be afforded. In which case, we being directly in their route, should probably have it in our power to retard their progress, until our army could get up with their rear. However, from some accounts received this morning (to-wit, that a considerable part of their fleet had been discovered moving up the North river,) I think there cannot remain a doubt that their operations are intended against that quarter. General Washington, in consequence of this intelligence, has moved with his whole army within twenty miles of Fishkilus, about one hundred miles from hence, where he means to remain until the designs of the enemy are reduced to a certainty. I have been re-enforced since I came here by one regiment of Virginians and an artillery corps with six brass field pieces, making the strength of my brigade, in the whole, about 2,000."

\* \* \* \* \*

"This morning for the first time, I have seen a general return of the state of our army, and it is with pleasure I inform you that we have now on the field, of continental troops, effective, upwards of 20,000, exclusive of those in Canada, which I suppose amount to 4,000 or 5,000 more; add to this a most admirable train of artillery, and 700 Light Horse equal at least to those of the enemy in discipline, equipage and everything else, is it possible with such an army and a

Washington at their head that Americans can have anything to fear? No, dear Sally, I now feel the fullest assurance that can be founded in human events, that nothing less than the immediate interposition of Providence (which I will not suppose to be excited in favor of tyranny and oppression) can prevent us from the invaluable blessings of liberty, freedom and independence. With these assurances I rest satisfied, with the blessing of Heaven, of returning to you ere long crowned with victory, to spend in peace and domestic happiness, the remainder of a life, which, without you, would not be worth possessing.’

This accession of force, so greatly needed and longed for by Washington, not only served to stop his retreat but stimulated him to assume the aggressive against his opponent, Sir William Howe, who had embarked his forces by water to the head of Elk, in Maryland, with the intention of moving on Philadelphia. Washington and Howe fought at Chadd’s Ford on the Brandywine, Sept. 11th, 1777, and Howe won the battle and took possession of Philadelphia. The North Carolina troops at Brandywine had to oppose the flanking movements of Lord Cornwallis, and although compelled with the rest of their division to retreat, they did so not only in good order, but with repeated attacks on the enemy, and they aided in bringing off the field the artillery and baggage of the division to which they were attached.

In less than a month after Brandywine, namely: on the 4th of October, 1777, the battle of Germantown was fought, in which Nash led the North Carolina troops. They behaved splendidly and won great praise from Washington. They were in the reserve force under Major Gen. Stirling, and were thrown into the attack on the right. Gen. Nash was leading them into action down the main street of Germantown, when a round shot shattered his thigh, killing his horse and throwing him heavily to the ground. He tried to conceal the extent of his hurt by covering the terrible wound

with his hands, and cheered on his men, saying: "Never mind me. I had a devil of a tumble; rush on, my boys; rush on the enemy; I'll be after you presently." But he was mortally wounded, and was carried to a private residence, where after lingering in greatest agony for three days, he died on the 7th of October, 1777. His last words were: "From the first dawn of the Revolution I have been ever on the side of liberty and my country." He was buried in the Mennonist graveyard at Kulpsville, with military honors, and General Washington issued the following order for the funeral:

"Head Quarters, Toamensing, October 9, 1777.

"Brigadier General Nash will be interred at 10 o'clock this forenoon, with military honors, at the place where the road where the troops marched on yesterday comes into the great road. All officers, whose circumstances will admit of it, will attend and pay this respect to a brave man who died in defence of his country.

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

The shot that killed him also killed his aide, Major Witherspoon, and was a stray one fired by a retreating enemy who had been driven for two hours or more, and were, as they themselves supposed, hopelessly defeated, when an accident saved them, and reversed the situation. There was a heavy fog and no breeze to dispel it or the smoke from the guns which so completely enveloped the field that it was impossible to see more than fifty yards. Two of the American columns mistook each other for the enemy, and each thought the other a re-inforcement with which it was unexpectedly confronted, and so, as Washington expressed it: "In the midst of the most promising appearances when everything gave the most flattering hopes of victory, the troops began suddenly to retreat, and entirely left the field in spite of every effort that could be made to rally them." In the same letter, however, he says: "In justice to Gen. Sullivan and the

whole right wing of the army whose conduct I had opportunity of observing as they acted immediately under my eye, I have the pleasure to inform you that both officers and men behaved with a degree of gallantry that did them the highest honor."

More than once he referred to the death of General Nash as a deplorable loss to the army and to the cause for which he fought, and letters from the most distinguished citizens of the state and country, and newspaper articles on the subject justify the belief that General Nash was very highly esteemed as a soldier, and gentleman, and that both in his military and civil life he won the affections of his associates by his generous and unaffected conduct. Thos. Burke, then a member of congress and afterwards governor of the State, writing to Governor Caswell, says he was "one of the best, the most respected, and regretted officers in the Continental Army," and Governor Caswell himself said that he "left no equal among the officers who survived him."

George Washington Parke Curtis, in his "Recollections of Washington," speaking of Gen. Nash's death and burial, uses the following language: "He lingered in extreme torture between two and three days and died, admired by his enemies—admired and lamented by his companions in arms. On Thursday the ninth of October the whole American army was paraded by order of the Commander-in-Chief to perform the funeral obsequies of Gen. Nash, and never did the warrior's last tribute peal the requiem of a braver soldier or nobler patriot than that of the illustrious son of North Carolina."

Many traditions of his physical comeliness, especially when mounted, have been preserved among his descendants, and one in particular I remember as told to me by a venerable man who said that one of Gen. Nash's soldiers told him that the General was the handsomest man on horse back that he ever saw. Col. Polk, who was one of his officers, was fond of



reciting his attractive qualities, and (as another venerable gentleman told me) when describing the wound that crushed his leg invariably concluded his eulogium by saying, "and he had the finest leg that was ever hung on a man!" But his physical beauty seems to have been only the complement of his moral and intellectual attributes, for he was one of the most enlightened, liberal, generous, and magnanimous gentlemen that ever sacrificed his life for his country.

And here it may not be inappropriate to record an incident of minor importance, but of some interest in connection with the events occurring on this battlefield of Guilford Courthouse and with which the name of Gen. Nash is associated. The incident is one which rests on a family tradition and is as follows: Judge Maurice Moore, his father-in-law, had imported from England a thoroughbred horse named "Montrose," and a mare called "Highland Mary," and had given to Gen. Nash their colt, a splendid bay named "Roundhead." When Gen. Nash went into the army he left this favorite horse at his residence in Hillsborough, and during his absence David Fanning, the Tory leader, made a raid on Hillsborough and stole the horse. After Nash's death his body servant, Harry, who was with him at Germantown where he was killed, came home and at the urgent request of General Wm. R. Davie, who had been made Commissary General, was turned over to him as his servant. Harry had been distressed at the loss of his master's favorite horse, and at the battle of Guilford Courthouse he had suddenly exclaimed: "Look yonder at that officer riding Roundhead!" The officer was Lord Cornwallis, and very soon after this the horse was killed under him. Cornwallis had two horses killed under him that day according to all accounts and some say three. The tradition to which I refer says the servant Harry not only recognized the horse at first but after he was shot went to him and identified him. The faithful servant saw his master killed four years before in Pennsylvania by the Brit-

ish, and now within fifty miles of his home witnessed the death of his favorite horse on this battle ground by the Americans, who were shooting at his rider, the commander of the British army.

General Nash married Miss Sally Moore, daughter of Judge Maurice Moore, and sister of Judge Alfred Moore, afterwards of the Supreme Court of the United States, and had only two children. These were girls, the elder of whom, Ann, died at the age of 13, and the younger of whom, Sarah, married Mr. John Waddell, a rice planter on the lower Cape Fear river.

Some time after his death his widow married Gen. Thomas Clark, who had succeeded him as Lieutenant Colonel and finally as Brigadier General in the Continental Line, but they left no children.

One month after Gen. Nash's death the Continental Congress, on the 4th of Nov., 1777, expressed its appreciation of the heroic services he had rendered, and directed that a monument should be erected to his memory. The resolution of Congress was in the following words:

“Resolved, That His Excellency, Gov. Caswell, of North Carolina, be requested to erect a monument of the value of \$500.00 at the expense of the United States in honor of the memory of Brigadier General Francis Nash, who fell in the Battle of Germantown on the 4th day of Oct., 1777, bravely contending for the independence of his country.”

That resolution remained unexecuted because the State of North Carolina was then, and for some years afterwards, engaged in a life-and-death struggle for self-preservation, and had no time to expend in the erection of monuments to her heroes. No monuments were erected, so far as I know, either by the general government or any State until long after the Revolution was ended, and therefore no blame could be justly attached to our State for not complying with the resolution at that time.



But the patriotic spirit of a stranger to our State and people, John F. Watson, Esq., of Philadelphia, prompted him seventy years ago to induce the citizens of Germantown and Norristown to erect a monument over the grave of Gen. Nash, which was done, and for this deed his name should be gratefully remembered by every true North Carolinian.

There have been persistent efforts for fifty years to have this resolution of Congress carried into execution by Congress, but from different sources opposition has with equal persistency interposed until these efforts ceased, from sheer desperation, to be made. But the patriotic Society of the Cincinnati, when re-organized in North Carolina, took charge of the matter, and from their meeting in 1896 annually pressed it upon congress through the senators and representatives from our State until 1903, when the bill was passed making the appropriation asked for. It would be an act of injustice, however, while accrediting the Society of the Cincinnati and the North Carolina senators and representatives fully with their action, not to record the fact that by his unremitting labors and fortunate acquaintance with leading senators and representatives from all parts of the country, the chairman of the committee of the Cincinnati, Col. Bennahan Cameron, is entitled to a larger share of credit for this legislation than any other individual, and it gives me great pleasure to make public acknowledgement of the fact. After a careful examination of the whole history of these efforts and their final success this award of merit to Col. Cameron as the chief instrument in accomplishing the result cannot be justly withheld. And in this connection I wish to say that the design for this noble arch and its construction is attributable to the skill and taste of another North Carolinian, Capt. R. P. Johnston, of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, who gave much time and care to the work and has just reason to be proud of its final accomplishment.

Of course it goes without saying that in all these efforts to

secure this monument the devoted and patriotic President of the Guilford Battle Ground Company, Major Morehead, has been an indefatigable and active ally of the Cincinnati\* and of the senators and representatives of our State and that his services in that behalf merit and should receive the fullest recognition. It was only in keeping, however, with his whole record as President of the Company to which he has unselfishly devoted so large a part of his time for some years past.

And a nobler work these gentlemen never did, for from his first appointment as Lieutenant Colonel to the time of his death, General Nash enjoyed the confidence of all his superior officers and the affection of the soldiers under his command to a remarkable degree. His career was a brief, but brilliant one, and ended on the field of glory, when he was only thirty-five years old. It is unquestionably true, and therefore just, to say that there was no officer of the American Revolution who acquired in the same period a more solid reputation for soldierly qualities, or who died more universally regretted than he, and that therefore his country for which he willingly gave his life has never erected a monument to a Revolutionary hero and patriot that was more richly deserved than this which has been unveiled today.

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\*NOTE.

We concede the right of private opinion of course, and we appreciate the speaker's very complimentary words gracefully spoken of us. But since after its usual custom these unveiling ceremonies were held upon its grounds by the Guilford Battle Ground Company, and since this pamphlet is edited and published by the Company, silence here would be construed into acquiescence in the opinion here expressed from which the Company emphatically dissents. The Con-

tinental Congress voted appropriations for monuments to General Francis Nash and William Lee Davidson which were never erected. In 1841-2 the late Governor W. A. Graham, then Senator in Congress from North Carolina, and in 1888 Senator Vance, we are told, and in 1896 the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati, endeavored to revive these appropriations but failed in their efforts, and the inference is that a pursuance of the same method and advancement of the same arguments would have continued to fail. But in 1902 the Guilford Battle Ground Company furnished the Hon. W. W. Kitchin arguments and considerations which enabled him—to whom beyond all others merit is due for work done in Washington—to secure the appropriation by a two-thirds majority in the house, where a majority could never be secured, though attempted for 60 years. This was effected, too, over the objection of Speaker Cannon and his active opposition. Mr. Kitchin told the House that the Battle Ground Company (or Association as it ought to be called) of North Carolinians had purchased, redeemed, beautified and adorned the famous Revolutionary Battlefield of Guilford Court House; that in its poverty it was continuing its struggle of 15 years for its continued adornment and that Congress should therefore, among other reasons, vote the appropriation and place the monuments at Guilford. Mr. Kitchin was then addressing many members of Congress who knew that thus to aid the Battle Ground Company was not only to honor North Carolina's Noble Dead, but that it was also to make of this Battlefield for all time, a monument to troops from their own respective States who fought here under Greene in 1781. This two-thirds majority illustrated the difference in effect upon Congress between the mere introduction of bills and resolutions and the reclamation, after vast toil and expenditure, of this Famous Battlefield.

The Resolution, as adopted, placed the disbursement of the funds, erection of the monuments etc., in the hands of

the Secretary of War, who should however, act jointly with the Governor of North Carolina "in the selection of a location for the said monuments." The authority was soon placed by the Secretary of War in the hands of Hon. C. B. Aycock, the then Governor, exclusively and very soon a bitter contest arose before the Governor between the Society of the Cincinnati and the Battle Ground Company—the Cincinnati desiring to locate the monument elsewhere than on the Guilford Battle Ground. Full evidence as to who secured the appropriation and whose wishes were therefore entitled to prevail in their location, was laid before the Governor, the legally constituted and final authority in the matter, and after patient, painful, conscientious consideration, the Governor put them at Guilford, where they now stand.

The supposed influence of Colonel Cameron, Chairman of the Committee of the Cincinnati, is here ascribed to his acquaintanceship with different members of Congress and in this connection we have heard the name of Senator Wetmore, of Rhode Island, mentioned specifically. We now re-publish and append two letters which show that the Company had its representative in Washington; that he labored among influential members, and that his labors were effectual.

UNITED STATES SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24, (1903.)

DEAR SIR:

Since receiving your letter of February 16, I have conferred with Senators Pritchard and Simmons, as well as Mr. W. W. Kitchin, and find that all are in favor of erecting the statues of Generals Nash and Davidson on the Guilford Battle Ground. I have today addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, enclosing your letter to me on this subject.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE PEABODY WETMORE,

Colonel Joseph M. Morehead, Greensboro, N. C.

## UNITED STATES SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24, (1903.)

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I desire to call your attention to the enclosed letter dated February sixteenth, addressed to me by Colonel Joseph M. Morehead, president of the Guilford Battle Ground Company, who during the consideration of the bill for the statues of Generals Nash and Davidson both in the House and Senate, manifested the greatest interest in it. You will notice that he is very much exercised lest another site be chosen than the Guilford Battle Ground. I have conferred with Senators Pritchard and Simmons, of North Carolina, as well as with Mr. W. W. Kitchin, member of the House from that State, who all agree that the statues should be erected on the Guilford Battle Ground. I might also add that the Guilford Battle Ground was the only place mentioned when the bill was under consideration in the House. Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,


GEORGE PEABODY WETMORE.

Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War.

JOSEPH M. MOREHEAD,

*President Guilford Battle Ground Company.*





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Charter and Amendments, By-  
Laws and Ordinances

OF THE

Guilford Battle Ground Company

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Collated August 1, 1906, by Jos. M. Morehead,  
President

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## AN ACT

### To Incorporate the "Guilford Battle Ground Company"

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

SECTION 1. That for the benevolent purpose of preserving and adorning the grounds on and over which the battle of "Guilford Court House" was fought on the 15th day of March, 1781, and the "erection thereon of monuments, tombstones, or other memorials to commemorate the heroic deeds of the American patriots who participated in this battle for liberty and independence, it is enacted that J. W. Scott, Thomas B. Keogh, Julius A. Gray, Dr. D. W. C. Benbow and David Schenck be and are hereby declared to be a private corporation, until their successors are elected, by the name of the GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND COMPANY."

SEC. 2. That the capital stock of said company shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, to be divided into shares of twenty-five (25) dollars each. That when ten shares or more of said capital stock are subscribed and ten per cent. thereof paid in, the stockholders may meet and elect not less than five nor more than nine directors of said company, by a majority vote of said stockholders, who shall succeed the persons hereinbefore named as incorporators, and this board of directors, so elected, shall elect one of their number President. The stockholders may also elect any other officers of the company they may deem proper and necessary.

SEC. 3. The "Guilford Battle Ground Company" shall have power to contract and sue and be sued by its corporate name; may have a common seal and exercise

all the ordinary and general powers of a private corporation of this kind. It shall have power to acquire by gift, grant, or purchase the title to all the lands on or over which the said battle of "Guilford Court House" was fought, or any part thereof or adjacent lands there-to not exceeding one hundred acres, or rights of way or other easements of land or water necessary or convenient for the proper enjoyment of said land. It may erect houses thereon for use or ornament; erect monuments, tombstones or other memorials; may adorn the grounds and walks; supply the grounds with water; plant trees, flowers and shrubs thereon, and do any other like things for the improvement and beautifying of the property. It may allow the United States or any State or corporation or individual to erect any monument, tombstone or other memorial, or any ornament or useful improvement thereon, to carry out the purposes of this act on such terms as may be agreed upon by the parties. It may receive gifts or aid from the United States, any State, corporation or individual, or agree with them to make any improvement thereon. Any city, town or other municipal corporation or any other corporation may subscribe to the capital stock of the said company; or make donations to the same; it may make all necessary by-laws, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State, for the proper care, protection and regulation of the property of the company and the monuments, tombstones, memorial, houses and other property and ornaments and adornments thereon, or for the protection of the trees, flowers, shrubbery, walks, lawns, springs, wells or other like property thereon. That the principal office of the company shall be in Greensboro, North Carolina.

SEC. 4. It shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by

fine and imprisonment, if any person or corporation shall wilfully destroy, demolish, deface or misuse any monument, tombstone or other memorial, or any fence, enclosure, tree, shrub, flower, spring, well, or any ornament or adornment placed upon the grounds, or any tree growing thereon, or shall wilfully deface, destroy or demolish any house, pavilion or like fixtures thereon, or shall wilfully trespass on the grounds after being notified not to do so, or shall wilfully obstruct the ways and walks of the company leading to or over the grounds.

SEC. 5. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 7th day of March, A. D., 1887.

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#### CHAPTER 549.

#### AN ACT TO AID THE GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND COMPANY.

WHEREAS, The legislature of North Carolina, at its session of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven ratified an act entitled "an act to incorporate the Guilford Battle Ground Company," for the laudable and patriotic purpose of redeeming the grounds on which that memorable battle for the cause of liberty and independence was fought between the American forces and the English invaders, March fifteenth, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one; and whereas, the said company, by their individual exertions, energies and personal liberality, have raised about three thousand dollars, with which they have purchased seventy acres of land embracing the battlefield, and have erected thereon a keeper's lodge and a handsome cottage, and marked the field by a pyramid of granite blocks, beautified and adorned two fine springs on the property,

erected two monuments in memory of the fallen heroes of this battle, and cleared and ornamented the grounds by a considerable expenditure of money, and collected a most valuable and interesting museum of relics from the battlefield, and have collected and published many new and interesting historical facts vindicating the good name of the North Carolina militia, who have been traduced by partisan writers of history; and whereas, the Guilford Battle Ground Company has expended every dollar of its money for these patriotic purposes, and is unable to raise any more funds to keep the grounds in order hereafter; and whereas, the State of North Carolina is in full sympathy with the worthy objects which said company has in view, and has heretofore shown her interest in preserving the memory of the heroic dead, who gave birth to this mighty nation, by contributing liberally to the erection of a monument at King's Mountain, where North Carolina organized and achieved a splendid victory over our oppressors, and by erecting a monument to the memory of Governor Caswell, the heroic Executive of our State in its struggle for independence; therefore,

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

SECTION 1. That the sum of two hundred dollars, annually, be and the same is hereby appropriated by the State, to be paid by the Treasurer to the president of the Guilford Battle Ground Company, for the purpose of preserving, improving and protecting the battlefield of Guilford court house.

Ratified the 1st day of February, A. D., 1889.

## CHAPTER 9.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-TWO, PRIVATE LAWS OF THE ACTS OF 1887, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND COMPANY."

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact :*

That chapter one hundred and sixty-two of the private laws of North Carolina, session of 1887, entitled "an act to incorporate the Guilford Battle Ground Company," be amended by adding the following sections :

SECTION 6. That the board of directors of the Guilford Battle Ground Company shall be invested with municipal powers to the extent that they may pass ordinances, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State, for the protection of the real and personal property of the Company, to prevent drunkenness and disorderly conduct on the grounds of the Company, to prevent disturbances on public celebration days, to prevent intrusions and trespasses, and the like ordinances [offences]; and that any violation of an ordinance so passed by said board of directors shall be a misdemeanor.

SEC. 7. That the board of directors may appoint policemen, who shall take an oath of office before a justice of the peace, and who shall have authority to preserve the peace on the grounds of the Company, to execute all criminal process issued to them for violations of the ordinances of the company, to quell riots, to arrest persons who are disorderly, so as to prevent breaches of the peace; and to have all the powers of a constable on the grounds of the company, and to enforce the rules and regulations prescribed by the board of directors.

SEC. 8. That it shall be unlawful to sell any spirit-

uous, malt or vinous liquors, or any compounds of which these liquors, or any of them, constitute the principal ingredient, within one mile of the grounds of the company.

SEC. 9. That the property of the company shall be exempt from taxation.

SEC. 10. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 28th day of January, A. D., 1889.

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### BY-LAWS.

PASSED MARCH 15TH, 1888.

1. The stockholders of this Company shall meet annually on the 15th day of March in each year at the Battle Ground, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company. If the state of the weather or any other good cause prevents the assembling on the Battle Ground, the President of the Company may designate a place in Greensboro for the meeting.

2. The stockholders by a majority vote, shall select a Board of Nine Directors, who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected. The Board so elected shall exercise the executive and administrative powers and duties of the Company, and may have power to enter into any agreement or contract, or direct any deed or instrument to be made which may be necessary to enable the United States, or the State of North Carolina, or any corporation or individual to erect monuments or buildings, or construct any ornamental or useful things upon the grounds of the Company; and shall have power to make rules and regulations for the government and protection of the property, and do any other act, consistent with the purposes and powers of the charter.

3. The Board of Directors shall elect a President of the Company as the charter directs, and such officers as they deem necessary.

4. A meeting of the stockholders for any special purpose may be called at any time, on twenty days notice, by a majority vote of Directors, or by the President on the written request of a majority of the stockholders of the Company. The President may call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time, on five days notice.

5. That these By-Laws shall not be changed except by a two-thirds vote of the stockholders in meeting assembled.

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#### ORDINANCES.

The following ordinance was passed :

“Be it ordained, by the Board of Directors of the Guilford Battle Ground Company that it shall be unlawful

(1) For any person to pull down, injure, destroy or carry away any flag, bunting, decoration, flag poles and fixtures or any like ornamentation placed by the Guilford Battle Ground Company, on its land and premises. and the same is hereby forbidden.

(2) It shall also be unlawful, and it is hereby forbidden to break down or injure any enclosure around the monuments, or any of them, on the Company's lands or to tread down the grass around them after being notified by public notice, placed on the grounds, of this ordinance.”

March the 18th, 1889.

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The following ordinance was, on motion of Dr. Benbow, unanimously adopted :



Be it Ordained by the Board of Directors of the Guilford Battle Ground Company, that it shall be unlawful, and it is hereby prohibited,

1. To shoot, or otherwise kill, on the grounds of the Guilford Battle Ground Company any squirrel, or rabbit, or other like game, without permission of the President of the Company.

2. To shoot or otherwise kill any partridge, woodcock, lark, dove, robbin, or other like game bird, or to shoot or otherwise kill any mocking-bird, cat-bird, thrush, red-bird, sparrow, or other like singing bird, on the grounds of the Company.

3. To hunt on the grounds of the Company with dog, or gun, or pistol, or any other way, or to continue and remain on the grounds when forbidden to do so by the Company or its agent.

4. To bring spirituous or intoxicating liquors on the grounds of the Company or to be *found tutoxicated on the grounds of the Company*, or to use loud and *profane* language on the grounds of the Company, or to use indecent and obscene language on the grounds of the Company, in hearing of others, or make any indecent exposure of one's person on the grounds of the Company.

5. To resist any constable, sheriff, marshal, or policeman in the discharge of his duties on the grounds of the Company, or obstruct or interfere with or hinder any civic or military procession or assembly on the grounds of the Company, or interfere with or break up or interrupt any game or amusement going on by consent of the Company on its grounds, or to interfere with, break up or otherwise disturb any picnic, or other like party of persons on the grounds by consent of the Company, or incite others to do so, or to break down ro



injure or destroy any fruit or flowers growing on the grounds.

6. That this ordinance be published in the NORTH STATE as notice to parties that these several unlawful acts are now a misdemeanor under the laws of 1889, chapter 9, Private Laws.

Meeting then adjourned.

THOS. B. KEOGH,

*Secretary.*

July 20th, 1889.

D. SCHENCK,

*President G. B. G. C.*

## AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE \$50 FOR THE RE-INTERMENT OF THE  
REMAINS OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL JETHRO SUMNER ON  
THE BATTLE FIELD OF GUILFORD COURT HOUSE.

Whereas, the body of Brigadier-General Jethro Sumner now lies in an obscure and neglected spot in Warren county, away from any cemetery or public grounds;

And whereas his posterity is now extinct and there are no collateral relatives living near his grave to preserve and protect it;

And whereas, he was one of the most gallant and patriotic soldiers of the revolution and distinguished at Eutaw Springs, in Sept., 1781, by leading his North Carolina Brigade against a column of British regulars and routing them at the point of the bayonet, a feat not excelled in courage and daring during the whole struggle for liberty;

And whereas, the Guilford Battle Ground Company, who own the consecrated ground on which the battle of Guilford Court House was fought, are anxious to have Gen. Sumner's body removed to that battle field, where his tomb will be preserved and beautified and the memory of his heroic deeds revived in the hearts of his grateful countrymen ;

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact :*

SECTION 1. That the sum of \$50 be, and the same is hereby appropriated to remove the body of Brigadier-General Jethro Sumner to the Battle field of Guilford Court House, and that the same be paid by the Treasurer of North Carolina to the President of the Guilford Battle Ground Company for that purpose, and that the Governor of the State be requested to co-operate with

the Guilford Battle Ground Company in effecting this laudable and patriotic purpose.

SEC. 2. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

February —, 1891.

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### CONSTABLES.

SECTION 643. Constables are hereby invested with, and may execute the same power and authority as they have been by law heretofore vested with, and have executed; and, in discharge of their duties, they shall execute all precepts and process of whatever nature, to them directed by any justice of the peace or other competent authority, within their county or upon any bay, river or creek adjoining thereto; and the said precepts and process shall be returned to the magistrates, or other proper authority.

SEC. 644 Constables shall likewise execute within the places aforesaid, all notices tendered to them, which are required by law to be given for the commencement, or in the prosecution of any cause before a justice of the peace; and the service thereof shall be made by delivering a copy to the person to be notified, or by leaving a copy at his usual place of abode, if in the jurisdiction of said constable; which service, with the time thereof, he shall return on the notice; and such return shall be evidence of its service; and, on demand of the same, the constable shall deliver the notice to the party at whose instance it was issued.

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An act to amend an act of the General Assembly, laws of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, chapter five hundred and forty-nine, "An act to aid the Guilford Battle Ground Company."

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

SECTION 1. That the laws of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, chapter five hundred and forty-nine, entitled "An act to aid Guilford Battle Ground Company," section one be amended by striking out the word "two" in one line and inserting the word "five."

SEC. 2. That this act shall include and be applicable to the year ending February 1st, 1893.

Ratified the 3rd day of February, A. D., 1893.

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## PRIVATE LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SESSION OF 1903.

CHAPTER 218.

An act to amend an act of the General Assembly of 1887, ratified the 7th day of March, 1887, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Guilford Battle Ground Company."

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

SECTION 1. That the Guilford Battle Ground Company are hereby authorized and empowered to freely give, grant or sell and convey to the State of North Carolina, or to the United States of America all, such of its property at the Guilford Battle Ground as may be deemed by said Company necessary in furtherance of the purposes of their Charter to redeem and preserve forever these grounds as a Revolutionary Park, and the said United States of America are hereby authorized and empowered to accept or purchase and hold the same.

SEC. 2. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 3rd day of March, A. D., 1903.

# Guilford Battle Ground Co.

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ANNUAL

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

MARCH 15, 1907


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JOSEPH M. MOREHEAD, President

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GREENESBORO,  NORTH CAROLINA



ANNUAL REPORT

# Guilford Battle Ground Co.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GREENESBORO, N. C., March 15th, 1907.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

*Gentlemen:*—The year 1906 must ever remain notable in the annals of the company. July the Fourth last witnessed the unveiling upon its grounds of two of the handsomest memorials that grace any Revolutionary battle field within the Union—erected by the National Congress. These are granite arches, spanning the Revolutionary Great Road leading from New Bern, by the sea, to Guilford and Rowan counties at the foot of the mountains. Along and within this road the British and Patriot forces did battle in March, 1781, under Lord Cornwallis and General Greene. These memorials form the entrance to the eastern and western parts of the grounds—one hundred acres—here about equally divided by the present macadamized road and railway leading north from Greensboro, which lies four miles to the southward. Staunch and elegant in design, these arches measure thirty-three feet in height by twenty-eight feet wide and seven feet in thickness. The carriage way beneath is twenty by twelve feet and will admit, throughout the ages to come, the grandest floats that the patriotism of the country may here display. General Francis Nash and William Lee Davidson, to whom they are erected, fell respectively at the battles of Germantown, Pa., in 1777, and at Cowans Ford, N. C., in 1781. Two handsome bronze tablets upon each set forth these with other facts of their honorable careers. As affecting the future growth, beauty and glory of your grounds the presence of these two monuments upon them can scarcely be over-estimated.

You have at present two excellent granite shafts, octagonal in shape, of alternate rock-faced and dressed sections. These we hope to have in place as soon as spring opens and, Deo Volente, will unveil them on July the 4th next, making twenty-seven monuments upon your grounds creditable to any park. This selection by the General Government of the battle field of Old Guilford Court House as the site for its two monuments due since the Continental Congress sat, and the example set by the State of Maryland, we have reason to believe, will soon induce other state legislatures and individuals to join you in your great work here.

We have made material additions to our Keeper's Lodge at a cost of a little over \$100.00 beyond the material aid rendered the company by a number of Greensboro's patriotic and public-spirited lumber men.

The dissemination abroad of our admirable literature, of handsome photographs, kodaks and cards of scenes from the battle field have brought us many acknowledgments of favors conferred and expressions of the highest appreciations by historical institutions and by individuals throughout the state and nation at large.

Last spring we ploughed, seeded to grass, clover and oats, and fertilized, thanks to the Virginia and North Carolina Chemical Co., practicably the whole of our arable land. The excessive rains of the season destroyed the oats, but secured a stand of grass and clover and at other points a heavy growth of weeds, greatly needed by our thin land, and these have been turned under for the fertilization of the soil.

Encouraging as our material advancement has been, yet to measure our progress by this alone would be to fall far short of appreciation of work accomplished by us. Our wise and patriotic friend, the Hon. Thomas M. Pittman, observes with pride and commendation, in the pages of "The North Carolina Booklet," that by the continuous securing and reinterment here of bodies of Revolutionary Patriots you are making of your grounds a veritable Westminster Abbey. If not so grand as that across the Atlantic, ours at least contains no tyrants, but it does contain the noble and good who loved humanity and gave or jeopardized their lives upon the field or forum for its betterment.

Through the influence of your example you have revived and restored to North Carolina the celebration of July the



4th, the natal day of the Republic. In its issue of July the 10th, 1901, the Biblical Recorder, as influential a religious journal as the state produces, remarked that at Guilford Battle Ground alone within our borders was the day properly observed. It is within your own and my knowledge that on the last Fourth its observance had become so general as to occasion general remark and to be pronounced a fad with the people. Verily that is a desirable and most important point gained. You have caused the projection recently of a number of histories of this state, three at least. Of course I do not herein include "North Carolina 1780-'81" by Judge Schenck, the best account of the battle of Guilford Court House extant and in my opinion the best work on North Carolina history, so far as it extends, yet published.

You have secured from Congress recently a handsome appropriation for Moore's Creek Bridge, the site of the first victory of the war, by an army organized to join battle, and a much more liberal appropriation for King's Mountain. My meaning is, that the example of your labors and expenditures at Guilford Battle Ground has so aroused the historic spirit within this state, as to have brought these things to pass. Reference to the Congressional Record of July 1st, 1902, will show that by reason of the efforts of North Carolina's Society of the Cincinnati and your own upon the floor, the Speaker of the House, while opposing us, was moved to declare his readiness to make an appropriation to King's Mountain in South Carolina; and this he, as I understand it, did upon the asking. It was indeed unfortunate for you that your countrymen of this lower House were not permitted to pass on your reasonable appeal for aid. Upon the principle that those who help themselves are entitled to help, and from other causes, the House would have dealt very liberally with the Battle Ground Association. Your Senate bill for a modest monument to General Nathanael Greene on this "The Field of his Fame", the House never had the opportunity of voting upon.

In a small way at least our beloved North Carolina is aiding in, because realizing better than ever before the necessity of, preserving historic spots within our own boundaries and not within those of other states and she is writing her own history. I would call attention to the fact that it is most important to teach history, if practicable, upon historic spots crowded with

historical associations and appointments. Among other visitors from schools and colleges, annually a very large class of young women from the State Normal and Industrial College, representing the entire state, visits the Guilford Battle Field, when we spend an hour or more walking over the field itself, in pointing out the exact localities where different troops stood and spots of particularly heroic daring and interest. An address from no grandstand, nor school-room, nor the use of any map or blackboard, can so arouse and fix the pleased attention and impress the lesson taught upon the minds of our youth (or upon the minds of anybody else) as is effected by this journey over the field of battle and among the memorials to the actors of the period then and there present, seen and discussed.

We are entirely free from debt; and have a little money on hand; but labor under an absolute necessity of having much more for the proper and speedy preservation of our work. Whence will we get it?

We deem it due Congress and the state and to be in furtherance of the company's interest to make as creditable a display at Jamestown of our literature, relics and pictures from the grounds, as shall be compatible with the safety of the relics—our first and highest obligation being of course due those who have committed their keeping to our hands.

We acknowledge obligation to the public press, Congress, the state, the Southern Railway, and to citizens of Greensboro especially for continued kindness and material support.

Let it be our effort to continue to deserve this at their hands.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. MOREHEAD,

*President.*

















